

**MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2025
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 9:00 A.M.
Meeting held at
Englewood Fire Administration Office
516 Paul Morris Drive, Englewood, FL 34223

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman, Ronald Davison. Those present were Mr. Loisel, Mr. Maley, Mr. Knauf, Lori Wellbaum and Chief Easton. Mr. Benedetti attended via phone.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Mr. Davison asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda from the 04/23/2025 and 05/28/2025 Board Meeting. Mr. Maley made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 05/28/2025, along with the 04/23/2025 and 05/28/2025 financials. It was seconded by Mr. Loisel, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Easton provided an update to the Board regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Sarasota County. He explained that now that the \$90,000 has been approved to purchase a new generator for the new headquarters building, he has submitted both the application and the vendor bid to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to request the release of the funds. Chief Easton also provided an update regarding the funds for replacing Station 71. He was contacted by the FDEM, and \$4 million was approved but the funding is designated for enhancing the existing structure, as new construction or complete rebuilds are not permitted. Chief Easton will contact local builders to solicit bids for the construction of a second story, while the first floor is planned to accommodate a gym and engine bays.

Chief Easton provided an update to the Board regarding the Hurricane Debbie Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Charlotte County. The funding to replace the generator at Station 72 has been approved; therefore, he has submitted the application and vendor bid to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to request the release of the funds. Additionally, Chief Easton explained that he needs to modify his application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP) concerning Hurricanes Helene and Milton. He initially submitted a request to replace Station 72; however, new construction is not permitted under the program. A small discussion ensued.

Chief Easton provided the Board with an update on the replacement of Fire Boat 72. He explained that he is currently in discussions with both the Sarasota and Charlotte County commissioners to collaborate on an application for funding from the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND). This grant would cover up to 50% of the purchase cost. However, both counties would also need to agree to contribute 25% each to complete the project. Chief Easton has scheduled meetings

with the remaining commissioners to secure their approval for the project. He will need to meet with additional members to get final votes to approve the application and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Chief Easton updated the Board on the mechanic position. He presented the salary offer to the candidate. The candidate did express some concerns about healthcare costs, but his decision will largely depend on whether his spouse secures full-time employment and their housing.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton addressed the Board regarding the rate scenarios presented by Sandi Neubarth from Accenture. He explained that she provided two rate scenarios based on the updated five-year average growth rates: 7.52% and 7.0%. Chief Easton will prepare the department budget using the maximum increase. He will review the proposed budget, along with anticipated costs for the upcoming fiscal year, at a later date. A small discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board regarding the district audit. In recent weeks, auditors from Ashley, Brown, and Smith made a site visit. He and other personnel successfully authenticated documentation, expenditures and assets; he is anticipating a draft copy of the audit soon.

Chief spoke to the Board about House Bill 929, which was recently signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis. He explained that the bill encourages departments to work towards 42 hours per week to help reduce burnout. Chief Easton is exploring alternative shift changes.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No public comment.

DVP COMMENT :

No DVP comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Knauf thanked Chief Easton for doing a great job.

Mr. Maley had a question about the HMGP Station 71 project; he asked Chief Easton what percentage of the building can exist. A small discussion ensued.

Mr. Maley also thanked Krista Powell for her hard work making all the arrangements and accommodations for the 2025 FASD conference.

Mr. Benedetti asked Chief Easton about the current shift hours. A small discussion ensued.

Mr. Davison expressed his gratitude to Chief Easton for his excellent work. He also thanked Krista Powell for her efforts in making arrangements and accommodations for the 2025 FASD Conference. He also congratulated her on achieving her Certified District Administration Professional certification.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.

Ronald Davison, Chairman

DATED: _____

Attest

DATED: _____

APPROVED